

Costa Brava - Wild Coast

BASIC SAILING & TOURISTIC INFORMATION

This beautiful rocky coast begins from Blanes, 24 Nm Barcelona eastwards and spreads out to French border. Costa Brava owes this name mainly its northern part, from L'Escala to



Portbou because the area from Blanes to L'Escala has developed. The unusual beauty of Costa Brava has attracted many famous people who have spent their free time here or created works of literature and painting. The history of the region is very rich and archaeological relics recall the presence of Iberian, Greeks, Romans, Visigoths and Arabs. Nature was very benevolent for Costa Brava because so many of its gifts can be found on such a small area. Exuberant vegetation comes to the blue and green sea, reaches its shore casting green light on golden beaches or ascends high on rocky cliffs. The annual mean temperature is 16 C but summer is not so hot here due to blowing Tramontana from the north, Garbi from South West, Levante from East and Mediodia from South. Costa Brava has only 80 Nm but posses 26 ports and 100 anchorages so there is quite a wide selection to choose from. The souther most part of the coast between Blanes and Tossa de Mar is afforested with many coves and is separated by the mountain chain Sierra Las Gevarras reaching the sea from the central

part of Costa Brava, named Baix Emporada.

Costa Brava on south begins in Blanes, a big town with a fishing port. Its greatest attraction is the Marimurtra botanical garden, placed on a steep cliff north of town, and having 5 ha area. Here over 5000 species of trees, bushes and flowers grow and from that place you can see, in the distance, the spectacular vista of Lloret de Mar. Blanes has also long and a very pleasant beach with pine trees casting their shadows on it. In the marina you will find 326 berths, 44 for guests - max yacht length 15 m, depth 3 m. Prevailing winds are from the E and SW and it is advisable to keep reasonable distance from the shore due to isolated rocks. For diving amateurs a good place for anchorage is in the area of Punta de Sta. Ana, La Falconera and between La Falconera and Cala St. Francesc. Sailing to Blanes a good orientation point is the tower on a hill, belonging to the castle from the X century. Going

north you can anchor at Fanals cove. Behind Fanals Cove there is Lloret de Mar, the well known tourist resort on the Costa Brava, the town is full of discotheques, bars, nights clubs and casinos. Night and beach life constitute the character of that place. In the suburbs of Lloret de Mar there is Water World, a water amusement park. Going north the next marina is Port de Cala Canyelles: 132 berths, 15 for guests - max length 10 m, depth 4 m, it is possible to anchor north of entrance. Between the marina and Lloret de Mar there are small, open creeks, some of them are suitable for diving (Punta Roja, Punta Goitia and Els Mulans). A country town which is worthwhile to visit is Tossa de Mar. Marc Chagall, who painted it in 1933 described it as "blue paradise". Many artists have followed him and despite that the town has become famous it has preserved its scenery. The old quarter Vila Vella from XII century with narrow and winding medieval streets surrounded by walls with



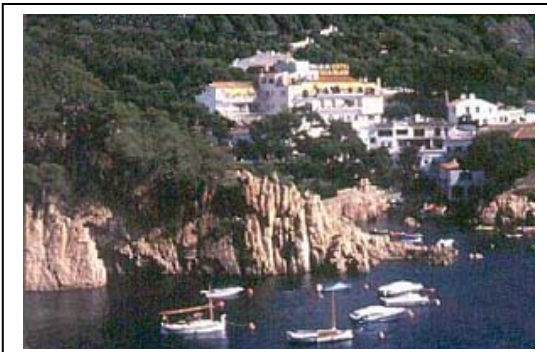
three towers are very attractive and when you looking down the panorama of the beach and the cove is really beautiful. Tossa de Mar has small marina and in the summer it is difficult to find a berth here. You can anchor at the cove next to Lloret. North from Tossa there are lovely coves named: Cala Bona and Cala Giberola.

Between Sant Feliu de Guixols and L'Estartit is Baix Emporada, the most frequently visited part of Costa Brava, coast area abounding in beaches with fine sand. It is worth seeing Sant Feliu de Guixols, drop into one of the numerous cafes in narrow streets of old town who has

kept its local colour or walk on the promenade with palm trees. Local marina offers 300 berths, 25 for guests - max length 40 m, depth 3 - 7m. The marina is protected form N, NW and SW winds, but with stronger winds from the S and E the entrance is not safe, in these conditions it is better to shelter in Palamos. The successive



residential complex set down among trees and gardens, harmoniously introduced in the landscape is S'Agarro, a group of the most luxury hotels in Spain. Charlie Chaplin, Humphrey Bogart, Eva Gardner and many other famous personalities spent here their free time. Next big resort similar in its character to Lloret is Platja d'Aro. The marina here has 840 berths, 40 for guests - max length 16 m, depth 3 m. In the north and south of Platja d'Aro are numerous rocks and it is safer to keep distance from the shore. Palamos is a interesting old town with the Santa Maria church from XIV century. Noteworthy also is to make a short walk to lighthouse on Punta del Moli hill from where the view on the beaches is unforgettable. Palamos has two marinas; Palamos marina with 875 berths, 231 for guests - max length 18 m, depth 3 m and the second one, Port Palamos offering 238 berths, 30 for guests - max length 40 m, depth 4 - 6 m. North of Palamos there are beautiful coves: Cala



Fosca, Cala de Calella and a group of island: Islas Formigues, to anchor. The Coast here is rocky and very pretty, full of coves and caves. Navigation should be done carefully due to submerged rocks. Behind Palamos main road turns into inland what considerably reduces the number of tourists on the coast. Above Cala de Calella you will meet lovely coves Cala de Lafranc, Cala Pedrosa and Cala Tamariu.

In Llafranc there is also an elegant marina. The surroundings are dominated by small houses and hotels placed on hills with pine forests reaching coves with turquoise waters. Tamariu set down at the mouth of river, owns its name because its located in the vicinity of pines. On



the Begur coast between Aiguablava and Sa Sierra there are the most beautiful coves of the Costa Brava. Special charm has the cove around Aiguablava, famous for its wonderful green and blue water. The cove is judged by many as one as the most charming place on the Costa Brava. There is also a marina in Aiguabrava. Sailing to the north you will see Cala dels Pins. A fine place for anchoring and behind Cabo de Begur you will find a little calm village Sa Tuna, and a cove with the same name. Next to Sa

Tuna, still waits Aiguafreda creek with green water among green hills. It is worthwhile to make a short walk to Begur. A small country town placed 4 km from the coast with medieval streets dominated by calmness and peace. From the hill, where castle ruins can be seen, you have a magnificent panorama, one of the best of Costa Brava's coast and inland. On the shore in the vicinity among steep rocks there is Cova d'en Gispert gorge, of some hundred meters where sailing gives fantastic impressions. The next marina is L'Estartit, it has 738 berths, 120 for guests - max length 25 m, depth 2 - 4,5 m. Vis-a-vis L'Estartit is a must for sailors, take for example the Medes islands. The archipelago, of 21,5 ha area is covering 7 islands, is a natural park with rich flora and fauna and is very attractive for lovers of diving. There are here deposits of corals which have been saved from total annihilation by creating a national park. Erosion has created underwater tunnels, caves and galleries. They are making a fascinating underwater-world. Between L'Estartit and L'Escala, the coast is formed by waves, has many interesting but rather difficult accessible coves. The north part of Costa Brava between L'Escala and Portbou belongs to Alt Emporada and is an area of greatest landscape contrasts. L'Escala is a vacation resort visited by mainly Spaniards. In town there is a fishing port from where boats set out for fishing in the evening. The marina has 435 berths, 217 for guests - max length 15 m, depth 1 - 3 m. The big attraction is archaeological excavation in Empuries, placed 2 km from L'Escala. Empuries was founded by Greeks in 550 bc. Romans landed here to fight the Carthaginians, they stayed and built a town ten times bigger than the Greek one. Visigoths made place an episcopate seat but Moors destroyed it meeting Visigoths resistance. Normans brought the town into ruins in the IX century. South of L'Escala there are good possibility's to anchor in Cala Mongo and Cala Clota.

L'Escala opens a wide bay: the Golfo de Roses, in the northern part of it there is a big marina Ampuriabrava, 2500 berths, 200 for guests - max length 30 m, depth 2 m. Next marina is located in Sta. Margarida where we will meet Roses town, with 3000 years of



history. Today it is a lively vacation resort, famous for her sunset. In town there is an interesting Aqua Park. Between Roses and French border the coast is very differentiated, with many coves, caves and small beaches. You can find here beautiful places, filled with calmness and peace. Buildings here are low, and do not overwhelm with its magnitude as they do in big resorts. Small, white houses dominate the landscape, even hotels are harmonized with the general climate of architecture. Sailing to the north you will meet

picturesque country town Cadaques set on mountainous peninsula Cabo Creus, on the hill overlooking blue cove waters. The place was discovered by artists and intellectuals and happily has avoided rush of tourists. In Cadaques there are many private art galleries and some museums. Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse and Gabriel Garcia Marquez lived in this town. The most known personality connected with Cadaques is Salvador Dali who lived in Port Lligat, placed 2 km from Cadaques and where you can find a museum of this artist. The next locality which is a must for sailors is El Port de la Selva, a fishing village in the beautiful circular bay with a marina. Catalan writers - Joseph Sagarra, Tomas Garces and many others looked here for inspiration for their work. About 6 km from the village, on a hill you can find San Pedro de Rodes, a benedictine monastery from the X century. The View from that place is absolutely fascinating. Next pleasant marina can be found in a small village: Port de Llanca. In the vicinity of Llanca are many fine beaches with a different character. There is a list of marinas close Colera. On Cabo Creus peninsula, between Roses and Colera there are many bigger and smaller coves and many of them are suitable for longer anchoring: Cala Monjoy, Cala Juncull, Cala Nans, Cala Guillola, Cala de Culip, Cala Portalo, El Goltet, Cala la Colomera, Cala Garvet, Cala Colera and Cala de Portbou. They are deep in cut coves with blue water, surrounded by green hills with a possibility to see the Pyreneans in the background. The coves are all different and each of us can discover his personal cove. For them who will devote some time to ascend neighbouring hills walking by winding, picturesque roads, the result will be unforgettable views. Costa Brava is not only a coast, the region has much more to offer. In the inland there are many towns deserving a visit, one of them is ancient Girona, placed only one hour drive from the coast.

